

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to add back the letter labels on the method steps, which were inadvertently removed in the previous amendment. This should address the §112 rejection. Claims 10-19 (system claims) should not have been rejected.

All of the claims have been rejected as anticipated by Kamei (U.S Patent No. 5,528,698). The Examiner maintains his position that Kamei discloses “capturing an image of a plurality of occupant seating areas” and “classifying a plurality of occupants in the occupant seating areas.” Kamei only discloses classification of a single occupant area – specifically the front passenger seat for the purpose of disabling the airbag. Kamei’s occasional reference to “occupants” (plural) refers to occupants who might sit (one at a time) in the front passenger seat. Kamei does not disclose analyzing any seat other than the front passenger seat. Therefore, none of the claims are anticipated.

Additionally, Kamei does not divide the image into a plurality of subimages of predetermined spatial regions. The “segmentor 622” referenced by the Examiner does not divide the image into a plurality of subimages. The output of the segmentor is an “enhanced image” (singular). There is no indication that the “sub image space 620” is a plurality of images divided from the original image.

Kamei does not generate a spatial feature matrix of the image based upon the plurality of subimages, or analyze the spatial feature matrix as claimed. Again, the output of the “segmentor” is a single enhanced image, not a plurality of subimages.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 26, 2006